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THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ART OF THE CITY OF DETROIT

As noted in the announcement on the front page of this Bulletin, the Detroit Museum of Art is now under the management of the Arts Commission of the City of Detroit, and as soon as the contemplated conveyance of the Museum's property and collections is made, the Detroit Institute of Arts, of the City of Detroit, will be in full force and effect. It is a novel, if not unique, experience among American municipalities to have, as a part of their civic function, the erection, operation, and maintenance of a public art gallery, and Detroit, with St. Louis, is in the vanguard in their actual governmental assumption of these duties, in which sooner or later every municipality of importance will engage.

This does not mean that Detroit and St. Louis are the only two cities giving financial support to Museums. This is done in many cities, and in New York and Chicago the contributions toward the support of the Museums are large, but Detroit and St. Louis are the first two cities in which the ownership and management of the Museum of Art is actually vested in the city. With the appointment of the Arts Commission by Mayor Couzens under the provisions of the new Charter adopted in June, 1918, the city assumed this new

function. The powers and duties of the Arts Commission under this charter are as follows:

"The powers and duties of the Commission, which shall be exercised and performed as herein provided and in conformity with the general ordinances of the city, shall be as follows:

(a) The Commission shall hold, in the name of the City, such real estate as may be necessary for the accomplishment of its objects;

(b) Shall build, operate, and maintain suitable buildings to be used for the exhibition of paintings and works of art and auditorium purposes, to be known as the Detroit Institute of Arts, and to which, under proper rules and regulations, the public may have access free of charge, except that on occasions when special exhibitions, public concerts or other entertainments are held in any of said buildings, the Commission may in its discretion make a reasonable charge for admittance, and shall have the right to rent to other organizations or individuals any of the buildings for special occasions.

(c) Shall acquire, collect, own and exhibit, in the name of the City, works of art, books and other objects such as are usually incorporated in Museums of Art.

(d) Shall have the management

and direction of several buildings, premises and property of the City under its control, and shall make reasonable rules and regulations concerning the same;

(e) May, with the approval of the common council, in the name of the City, take and hold, by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, such real and personal property as may be proper for carrying out the intents and purposes for which it is established;

(f) Shall recommend to the common council the institution of condemnation proceedings whenever, in its judgment, private property should be taken in the name of the City for the purposes of the commission;

(g) May, with the approval of the council, sell and convey or lease any of the buildings or land under its control, whenever required by the interests of the City;

(h) May make, with the ap-

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"IN THE COUNTRY," BY LEON KROLL. PURCHASED FROM THE SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP FUND CONTRIBUTED BY MR. J. J. CROWLEY.

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ARTS COMMISSION

RALPH H. BOOTH.....President

WILLIAM J. GRAY.....Vice-President

ALBERT KAHN.....

Commissioners

CLYDE H. BURROUGHS..Secretary and Curator

HOURS

The Institute is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; holidays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is always free.

COPYING

The Detroit Institute of Arts desires to give every facility to the art student, designer or mechanic who wishes to study or copy objects in the Institute collections. There are hundreds of objects which would suggest form or design for articles of utility and beauty. Requests for permits to copy and photograph in the Institute should be addressed to the Secretary.

LANTERN SLIDES

The lantern slide collection, embracing several thousand subjects, is at the disposal of teachers of the public schools free of charge. Slides on art, history and travel are available for the use of study clubs at a nominal rental.

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proval of the common council all contracts to carry out the purposes and objects of the department as herein provided; and

(i) Shall have such other powers as are herein prescribed or may be necessary hereunder for the proper discharge of its duties."

Upon adoption of this Charter, the corporation of the Detroit Museum of Art deemed it advisable to turn over all its property and collections to the municipal Arts Commission, and it will hereafter be designated as the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The Arts Commission consists of four members, appointed for a term of four years, the term of one Commissioner expiring each year. In naming the first Arts Commission Mayor Couzens showed the intention of building upon the firm foundation already laid by the corporation of the Detroit Museum of Art, in choosing as commissioners Ralph H. Booth and William J. Gray from the Board of Trustees of the Museum, and his appointment with these of Albert Kahn, well-known architect, as the third member of the Commission. The Arts Commission therefore comes into existence in Detroit with a background of art appreciation which has been fostered for a period of over thirty years by the Museum corporation, through whose action it becomes possessed

of well rounded collections, large in their significance and valued at over half a million dollars, and a site for the new Institute of Arts in the heart of the city's population, and a part of a new center of arts and letters, whose intrinsic worth today is in excess of half a million dollars. This significant gift in fee simple to the people marks not the least of the many important steps of progress toward a better civic life that was ushered in with the adoption of the new Charter and the able administration of Mayor Couzens and the new nine man council of the City of Detroit.

The program of the Arts Commission for the current year, aside from completing the negotiations of the conveyance of the new Museum site and the property and collections of the Museum to the City, is to provide for the continued operation of the Museum activities with enlarged opportunities for the people, the student and the designer in Detroit industries, and the development of plans looking toward the erection of new buildings opposite the new Public Library to house the Detroit Institute of Arts, of which the collections of the Museum will form so important a nucleus. C. B.

